

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 221610Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3017

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 0932

EXDIS

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: ENERGY: GON ATTENDANCE AT ORGANIZING MEETING
OF COORDINATING GROUP

REF: STATE 035338

1. ITALIANER (FONOFF) INFORMED CHARGE AFTERNOON OF
FEBRUARY 22 THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL OF MIN-
ISTERS' DECISION EARLIER IN THE DAY HE WHOULD BE ONLY
GON REPRESENTATIVE AT THE FEBRUARY 25 ORGANIZING
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MEETING OF THE COORDINATING GROUP. CHARGE SAID HE WAS

GRATIFIED THAT ITALIANER WOULD BE GOING BUT EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OTHER DUTCH DELEGATES. ITALIANER REPLIED THAT HE TOO HAD THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE OTHERS (AS HE HAD INDICATED TO CHARGE THE DAY BEFORE) BUT HE SURMISED THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD JUDGED THAT ITALIANER, AS CHAIRMAN OF A GON INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP ON THE FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM, WOULD SUFFICE SINCE THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COORDINATING GROUP WOULD DEAL PRIMARILY WITH ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS. ITALIANER ADDED THAT HE WOULD ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON SOMETIME ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 24 VIA KLM 115 FROM AMSTERDAM. CHARGE WISHED HIM A GOOD MEETING AND HOPED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ALONE AT DUTCH TABLE AT FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE COORDINATING GROUP.

2. COMMENT: THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT GON OFFICIALS WERE WELL AWARE OF IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO FEBRUARY 25 MEETING AND OF OUR HOPE FOR REPRESENTATION OF SEVERAL SENIOR LEVEL OFFICIALS (STATE 035338). CHARGE EMPHASIZED THESE POINTS IN A FEBRUARY 21 DINNER CONVERSATION WITH FONOFF STATE SECRETARY BRINKHORST AND IN FACT ENCOURAGED HIM TO ATTEND IF AT ALL POSSIBLE (BRINKHORST SAID THAT IT WAS NOT RPT NOT POSSIBLE INTER ALIA BECAUSE OF ABSENCE OF FONMIN VAN DER STOEL).

3. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' DECISION TO SEND ONLY ITALIANER WAS TAKEN IN ABSENCE OF BOTH VAN DER STOEL AND PRIME MINISTER DE NUYL (ALTHOUGH IT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN COORDINATED WITH VAN DER STOEL BY CABLE AND PERHAPS ALSO WITH DEN UYL). IN ADDITION TO EXPLANATION GIVEN BY ITALIANER (WHO SOUNDED GENUINELY DISAPPOINTED AND SOMEWHAT CONCERNED AT HAVING TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR DUTCH PARTICIPATION IN FEBRUARY 25 MEETING) GON MAY HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY HOPE OF AVOIDING ANY WIDENING OF EC EIGHT RIFT WITH FRANCE AND ANY AGGRAVATION OF ITS OWN TROUBLES WITH OAPEC STATES (SEE SEPTTEL).

4. ITALIANER HAS JUST ADVISED US THAT HE NEGLECTED TO STATE THAT ECONOMIC MINISTER AND FINANCE ATTACHE
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AT NETHERLANDS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WILL JOIN HIM AS PART OF GON DELEGATION TO FEBRUARY 25 MEETING.
TANGUY

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